

Basidiomycetes at the timberline in Lapland 3. Two new boreal polypores with intricate hyphal systems

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Two new saprotrophic polypore species, *Antrodia primaeva* Renvall & Niemelä and *A. infirma* Renvall & Niemelä (Basidiomycetes), are described. They have mostly been collected in northern Finland. Both are associated with brown rot and they have been found almost exclusively on old windfalls of *Pinus sylvestris*. *A. primaeva* resembles *Dichomitus squalens* (Karst.) Reid in having resupinate or effused-reflexed basidiocarps which are white to bay and soft when fresh. The overall structure of *A. primaeva* is trimitic; the tubes are dimitic, while the subiculum and cap context consist predominantly of generative hyphae, but contain skeletal and scattered binding hyphae close to the tube bottoms and sometimes next to the wood. *Dichomitus squalens* differs in having arboriform and cyanophilous skeleto-binding hyphae. *A. primaeva* is microscopically close to *A. serialis* (Fr.) Donk, but skeletal hyphae are dominant in the context of the latter and its whole structure is tougher. *A. infirma* is dimitic with very rare skeletal hyphae. *A. oleracea* (Davidson & Lombard) Ryv. is similar to it, but has shorter basidiospores, shorter and almost pyriform basidia, smaller pores and different hosts. *A. infirma* is differentiated from *Postia rancida* (Bres.) Larsen & Lombard and *P. placenta* (Fr.) Larsen & Lombard by having true skeletal and longer, fusiform basidiospores. The vegetative hyphae of both the new species are unevenly distributed in the basidiocarp. Skeletal hyphae are often found in clusters in the trama, and horizontal sectioning is a useful method for examining their occurrence and distribution. The authors consider that the significance of the structure of hyphal system as one of the basic characters in the taxonomy of polypores requires some re-evaluation. In addition, a new polypore species, *Dichomitus stenospora* Renvall & Niemelä, is described on the basis of North American material.

Key words: *Antrodia infirma*, *Antrodia primaeva*, Boreal, *Dichomitus stenospora*, Finland, hyphal system, polypores, primeval forest, taxonomy.

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Introduction

While studying our Nordic materials of resupinate polypores, we have come across certain clusters of species which share many general characters, but lack striking structures which would help the determination. One such group growing on conifers (see *Antrodia* sp. 1 in Renvall et al. 1991b) is characterized by thin, soft, resupinate fruit bodies, with light colours. The basidiospores are narrowly ellipsoid, approximating $6-8 \times 3 \mu\text{m}$, and thick-walled hyphae are variably found in the inner structure. If such thick-walled hyphae are considered to be mere sclerified generative hyphae, the species approaches *Postia placenta* (Fr.) Larsen & Lombard (*Poria monticola* Murr.). If stronger, hyphae of skeletal appearance

were found, a probable identification was sought in the vicinity of *Antrodia serialis* (Fr.) Donk. However, these identifications to the 'nearest probable' name have left an uneasy feeling and a call for a closer study.

We here describe two new polypore species, *Antrodia primaeva* Renvall & Niemelä and *A. infirma* Renvall & Niemelä, which were mostly collected in northern Finland. We also discuss the taxonomy of these new polypores and outline their distribution and ecology. We felt it necessary to compare them with *Antrodia oleracea* (Davidson & Lombard) Ryv., *Dichomitus squalens* (Karst.) Reid, *Postia placenta* and many other related taxa, and to evaluate the importance of hyphal characters in separating the

genera *Antrodia* Karst., *Dichomitus* Reid, *Fibroporia* Parm., *Fomitopsis* Karst., *Pilatoporus* Kotl. & Pouz. and *Rhodofomes* Kotl. & Pouz.

In addition, on the basis of the North American type material which we checked for this study, we formally describe a polypore earlier known as '*Poria stenospora* Overh.'.

This is the third paper in a series devoted to the basidiomycetes at the timberline in Lapland, northern Finland. The background for the studies, the previous mycological literature, general geography, vegetation of the research area and nomenclature of the plants were treated in detail in an introductory paper (Renvall et al. 1991a). In the second paper (Renvall et al. 1991b) the polypores of northeastern Finland were listed and discussed.

Materials and methods

For the present paper we have studied 28 specimens of *Antrodia primaeva* and 12 specimens of *A. infirma*; most of those collections are our own. Additional specimens filed under *Antrodia*, *Poria* s. lat., *Tyromyces* s. lat., *Dichomitus squalens* and *Postia placenta* were checked in H, UPS, GB-J.E. and in some personal collections. For instance, 53 specimens of *Dichomitus squalens* (45 collections from northern Europe and 8 from North America) and 61 specimens of *Postia placenta* were studied in microscope. In addition, the types of the 14 additional species names were studied. They will be discussed more closely in the section Excluded taxa.

The material collected by us is mainly preserved in the Botanical Museum of the University of Helsinki (H). Herbarium abbreviations are according to Holmgren et al. (1990). Other abbreviations: GB-J.E. = the collections of the Department of Systematic Botany, University of Göteborg, established by Dr. John Eriksson. O-L.R. = the collections of the Biological Institute, University of Oslo, kept by Dr. Leif Ryvarden. Personal herbaria are abbreviated as follows: P.R. = Pertti Renvall, T.N. = Tuomo Niemelä, H.K. = Heikki Kotiranta (all in Helsinki).

Microscopical characters were studied on each specimen with the microscopes Leitz Dialux 22 and Leitz Diaplan at magnifications up to $\times 1\,250$. Anatomical details were drawn with the Leitz drawing tube. The chemical reagents used in the microscopical examination and their reactions are those listed by Niemelä (1985a, 1985b). We have used Cotton Blue (CB) when drawing figures and when measuring the microscopical elements of basidiocarps. According to Parmasto & I. Parmasto (1987) in general at least 30 spores from at least seven specimens should be measured to minimize statistically significant measure-

ment errors when describing the variation of basidiospores of certain species. We have followed their recommendations and for both new Nordic species 30 basidiospores were measured from each of 10 specimens. In addition, a variable amount of spores were measured from other specimens. Premature and exceptionally large malformed spores were excluded from the measurements. In presenting the variation of the spore size, 5% of the measurements have been excluded from each end of the range, and are given in parentheses. In the text the following abbreviations are used: \bar{L} = the mean spore length (arithmetical mean of all the spores), \bar{W} = the mean spore width, Q = quotient of the mean spore length and the mean spore width (\bar{L}/\bar{W} ratio), $(n = x/y) = x$ measurements of spores (basidia, basidioles, cystidioles, hyphae) from y specimens.

Spore shape terminology is very confusing, and in particular the word 'cylindrical' has many meanings. Truly cylindrical spores have parallel sides, so that the thickest part of the spore cannot be defined. If the thickest cross-section can be defined, i.e. the sides taper, even if slightly, towards the ends, proper terms would be elliptic, narrowly elliptic, subfusiform or fusiform. In this respect we follow the terminology of Largent et al. (1977).

In our opinion it is essential to study not only the tube wall structure, but also the make-up of the subiculum or pileal context, as seen in thin, vertical, radial sections extending from the very attachment to the wood, down to the transitional zone adjoining the tubes. In some cases special hyphal types are seen adjacent to the substrate only, or in cavities of decaying wood beneath the basidiocarp. We have also used horizontal sectioning of the trama (Fig. 9) in examining the hyphal system in the microscope. We find it a useful method of clarifying the distribution of generative vs. skeletal hyphae in both the species of *Antrodia* described here.

The collecting (see Renvall et al. 1991b), herbarium studies, microscopical examination and measurements were mostly done by P.R. This article was written by him, too, although the authors collaborated on the taxonomical discussions. The figures of anatomical details have been drawn by T.N. and the BW photographs are by him, while the colour photos and the maps are by P.R.

Antrodia primaeva Renvall & Niemelä n.sp.

Carpophorum annuum, effusum vel effuso-reflexum. Systema hypharum trimiticum, contextus hyphis generativis fibulatis numerosis, hyphis skeletalibus et ligativis sparsis; trama dissepimententi dimitticum. Sporae $(6-6.2-9(-11) \times (2.3-2.5-3.3(-3.8)) \mu\text{m}$.

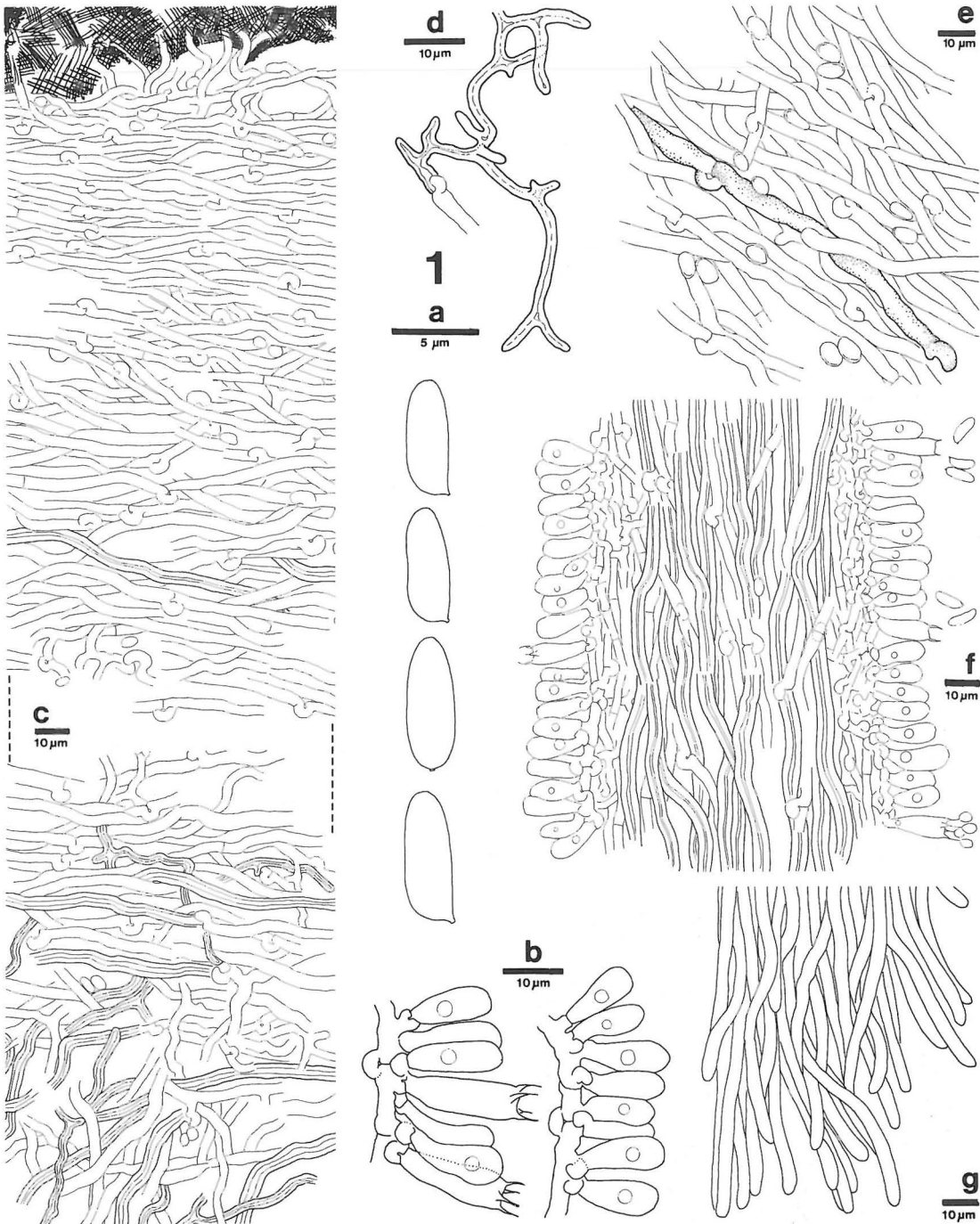
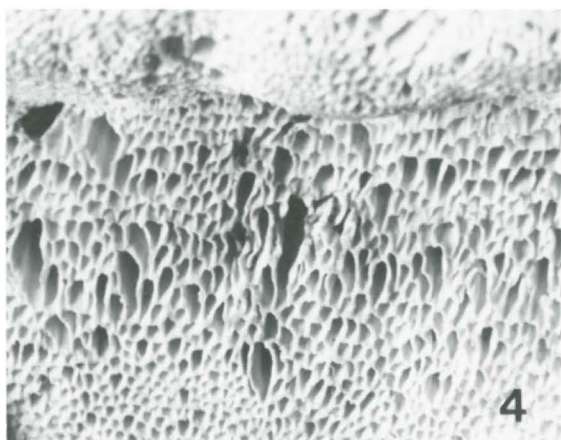


Fig. 1. Anatomical details of *Antrodia primaeva* Renvall & Niemelä: a) basidiospores, b) basidia and basidioles, c) a section through subiculum showing a basal layer against wood (upper part) and transitional hyphae near dissepiments (lower part), d) a contextual binding hypha, e) contextual generative hyphae with a gloeoclerous hypha, f) a section through upper dissepiment, g) dissepiment edge in a vertical section. Drawn in Cotton Blue. Figures a, d, e from the holotype (H); b, f from Renvall 991 (H); c, g from Kotiranta 6936 (H).



Figs. 2–4. *Antrodia primaeva* Renvall & Niemelä. — 2: A fresh, pileate basidiocarp, photographed in situ, x 1. Renvall 972, (H). — 3: Mostly resupinate basidiocarp, fresh, x 0.6. Renvall 1112 (H). — 4: Pore surface, x 6. Herbarium specimen, holotype (H).

Holotypus: Finland. Sompion Lappi, Savukoski, Urho Kekkonen National Park, fallen trunk of *Pinus sylvestris*, 19.IX.1988 P. Renvall 1372 & T. Renvall (H, effused-reflexed stage, isotypi in DAOM and O)

Basidiocarps annual, resupinate or effused-reflexed, soft, succulent and cheese-like when fresh, shrinking upon drying and brittle to fairly hard when dry, resupinate areas (1–)3–10(–20) × 1–5(–10) cm wide and up to 15 mm thick at centre. Pilei, if present, bluntly triquetrous, up to 7 cm wide, projecting 0.5–1.5 cm from substrate, 1–2 cm thick at the base, always attached to effused parts. Upper surface cream-coloured to unevenly pale brown or bay, evidently discolouring with age from the base outwards, first matted or finely tomentose, later more glabrous, azonate, in dry condition radially slightly wrinkled and with warts (Figs. 2 and 3). Sterile margin usually distinct in resupinate parts, 0.5–1 mm wide and thin, felty or finely radially fibrous, white to bay, when dry usually paler than the pores. Pore surface when young and fresh white to cream-coloured, with age and when dry becoming yellowish or widely discoloured with light brown to woody colours; pores angular, (1–)2–4 per mm, when dry walls fairly thin, 0.04–0.06 mm thick; tube mouths (Fig. 4) under lens (× 50) compactly matted, even or when old lacerate (dry). *Section*: Context white to cream with a brownish tint, in subiculum 0.5–5 mm, in pilei up to 15 mm thick, soft when fresh, when dry soft-corky and brittle when cut, in pileate basidiocarps often with very thin brown lines near the upper surface; a thin brown cuticle often seen in a section. Tubes concolorous with pore surface or when dry usually paler, up to 14 mm long.

Hyphal system trimitic (but appearing dimitic), all hyphae inamyloid, indextrinoid, acyanophilous and non-metachromatic. *Context*: Trimitic (but appearing monomitic), generative hyphae predominating in most parts, always thin-walled, rarely branched but with frequent cross-walls and clamp connections, 2.2–6 µm wide (n = 115/10), often with oily contents, a few of them gloeoplerous (Fig. 1e), slightly radially oriented in pilei and horizontally subparallel in resupinate parts and then with indistinct basal layer (Fig. 1c); skeletal winding, otherwise as in trama, in context rare, but locally fairly abundant just above tubes; binding hyphae (Fig. 1d) thick-walled, 1.5–3.8 µm wide (n = 63/10), with rather frequent and short branches, present close to tube bottoms and especially in very restricted patches at pileal base next to substrate. *Tubes*: Trama dimitic (Fig. 1f), generative hyphae abundant, subparallel, 1.8–4 µm wide (n = 119/13), thin-walled, otherwise as in context; skeletal hyphae predominating, parallel and fairly straight, refractive, thick-walled to subsolid and with oily contents (character seen especially well in KOH),

2.5–5 µm wide (n = 212/15); no binding hyphae in tube trama. Subhymenium fairly distinct. Hymenial cells attached together in a honeycomb structure (best seen in areas where hymenium has flattened). Basidioles clavate, stout-based, 13–20 × 4.5–7 µm (n = 30/2), often with single refractive droplets (Fig. 1b). Basidia clavate, with a basal clamp, sometimes strongly bent and arising deep within the subhymenium, with four sterigmata, 15–23 × 4.5–8 µm (n = 43/7). Cystidia absent but apiculate cystidioles (thin-walled, basidiole-sized) sometimes present, rare. *Basidiospores* (Fig. 1a) very narrowly ellipsoid and when mature with a subfusiform distal end, sometimes more ellipsoid (young), fairly thin-walled, smooth, inamyloid, indextrinoid and acyanophilous, (6–)6.2–9(–11) × (2.3–)2.5–3.3(–3.8) µm, $L = 7.37$, $W = 2.95$, $Q = 2.30–2.68$ (n = 334/15).

Etymology: *primaevus* (Lat., adj.), referring to primeval forest which has never felt the axe.

Distribution and ecology

Specimens examined.

Finland. *Kainuu*: Vuolijoki, *Pinus sylvestris*, 1991 Airaksinen (H). *Koillismaa*: Kuusamo, Oulanka Nat. Park, *P. sylvestris*, 1979 Niemelä 1592 (T.N.). Salla, Värriö Strict Nat. Res., *P. sylvestris*, 1988 P. Renvall 972, 987, 989 (H), 991 (P.R., O–L.R.), 1000 (P.R.), 1007, 1046, 1059a, 1061, 1068, 1111, 1112 (H), T. Renvall 316 (H, O–L.R.), 345, 399 (H), 1991 P. Renvall 2536, 2567, 2596 (H). *Sompion Lappi*: Savukoski, Urho Kekkonen Nat. Park, *P. sylvestris*, 1988 P. Renvall 1356a (H), 1372 (holotype, H, isotypes DAOM, O). *Enontekiön Lappi*: Enontekiö, Pallas–Ounas Nat. Park, Vuontisjärvi, *P. sylvestris*, 1980 Niemelä 2154 (H), 2162 (T.N.), Kotiranta 2315 (H). *Inarin Lappi*: Inari, Kessijärvi, *P. sylvestris*, 1988 Kotiranta 6936 (H.K.).

Norway. *Finnmark*: Sør-Varanger, near the border junction of Norway, Russia and Finland, *P. sylvestris*, 1969 Ryvarden (J.Eriksson 7423, GB–J.E.).

Sweden. *Lule Lappmark*: Jokkmokk, Ananas, inside old house, 1953 Eriksson 3709 & Olsson (GB–J.E.). *Torne Lappmark*: Jukkasjärvi, Abisko Nat. Park, *P. sylvestris*, 1976 Sunhede (J.Eriksson 21093, GB–J.E.).

The distribution of *Antrodia primaeva* (Fig. 5) falls in the Northern Boreal zone as delimited by Ahti et al. (1968; map also in Koski–Kotiranta & Niemelä 1988). Although there is one collection from the Middle Boreal zone, that locality also lies near the border of the Northern Boreal zone. The species seems to be commonest close to the timberline. Thus, the distributional pattern is strictly or strongly boreo-continental, as defined by us (Renvall et al. 1991b), and it may be similar to that of *Laurilia sulcata* (Burt) Pouz. (see Eriksson & Strid 1969, Ryvarden 1971) or *Peniophora septentrionalis* Laurila (see Kotiranta & Larsson 1990). We therefore expect this species to be found elsewhere in Scandinavia in old forests on high

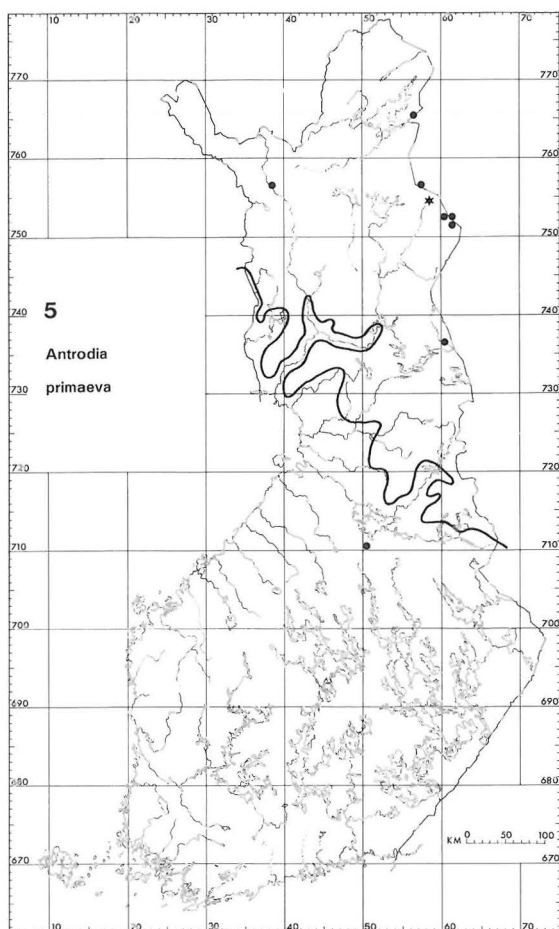


Fig. 5. The distribution of *Antrodia primaeva* Renvall & Niemelä in Finland according to the material examined. * = The type locality.

mountains and in the Northern Boreal zone of Russia, and perhaps also at high altitudes in the upper montane coniferous (Oroboreal) zone of Central and South Europe.

The habitat ecology of *Antrodia primaeva* is characteristic. In Finland the species has been found almost exclusively in rather dry virgin pine forests, on fallen trunks or on natural stumps of *Pinus sylvestris*. Of the collections from eastern Finnish Lapland ($n = 21$), 86% are from forests of the Empetrum-Myrtillus site type and two specimens were collected in the drier Uliginosum-Vaccinium-Empetrum type. The main forest site types of that area were described in detail by Renvall et al. (1991a). A few finds derive from dry, spaced spruce woodlands intermixed with old emergent pines. *A. primaeva* is evidently a sapro-

trophic fungus, which causes a slowly proceeding brown rot and favours fairly big fallen trunks. Of the collections ($n = 28$) 36% are from charred wood, which indicates a high resistance to drought, and perhaps an adaptation to forest fires. The basidiocarps mostly emerge on decorticated wood, growing out of deep fissures. Many finds were made on pines over one hundred years old, which had died and lost their bark but remained standing for decades before falling down. Such trees are characteristic of the North and are becoming more and more rare. The species grows mostly alone: in eastern Finnish Lapland it was noted growing on the same trunk or stump with an associate wood-rotting fungus only six times (out of 20). In view of these observations on its ecology, we consider it a threatened species and we propose that it should be included in the Red Lists of fungi in the Fennoscandian countries.

The fact that this species has escaped the attention of mycologists for so long must be due to the strong yearly variation in fruit body emergence. During periods of intensive field work in 1987, 1988, 1989 (Renvall et al. 1991a) and 1991 in eastern Finnish Lapland, the species was found only in 1988, when there was an exceptionally good growing season for fungi, and in 1991. In 1989 it was not found at all, although it was searched for carefully in the known localities, and in 1991 only old basidiocarps were found.

Notes on *Antrodia primaeva*

In the herbarium material that we have checked for this study *Antrodia primaeva* was filed three times under *Dichomitus squalens* and once under each of the following taxa: *Diplomitoporus flavescens* (Bres.) Dom., *Antrodia albobrunnea* (Rom.) Ryv. and *Postia placenta*. *Antrodia primaeva* is macroscopically similar to *Dichomitus squalens* in its white to bay and effused-reflexed basidiocarps, and the similarity is emphasized by the brown colours of the pileus (Fig. 2). In the microscope, however, it is seen to differ from *D. squalens* in its hyphal characters: the trama is predominantly composed of straight, thick-walled, acyanophilous true skeletal hyphae and richly clamped, thin-walled generative hyphae (Fig. 1f), while *D. squalens* always has arboriform and cyanophilous (reaction clear but weak, becoming stronger after a few hours) skeleto-binding (skeleto-ligative) hyphae, which predominate in both the trama and context (see e.g. Gilbertson & Ryvarden 1986, Fig. 110). The tramal characters of the new species are closer to those of *Antrodia serialis* which, however, has tough and almost homogeneous, dimitic context, in which

skeletal hyphae predominate, while the context of *A. primaeva* is almost monomitic and chiefly composed of richly clamped thin-walled generative hyphae, though some true binding hyphae (in the sense of Corner 1953) are always present and a few skeletals (Fig. 1c–e). The binding hyphae often occur at or near the attachment to the wood and in the transitional zone just above the tube bottoms. The skeletal hyphae in the trama are thinner and more interwoven in *A. serialis* than in *A. primaeva*. *Diplomitoporus flaves-cens* has a yellowish pore surface and slightly bent shorter basidiospores, and it causes a white rot (for descriptions see, e.g., Domański 1970b, 1972). Microscopically, *Antrodia primaeva* is reminiscent of some species of *Fomitopsis*. *F. palustris* (Berk. & Curt.) Gilb. & Ryv. (*Pilatoporus palustris* (Berk. & Curt.) Kotl. & Pouz.) has similar basidiospores and is reported to be dimitic (Gilbertson & Ryvarden 1986). *F. iberica* Melo & Ryv. also has similar microscopic characters (Melo & Ryvarden 1989). However, *Antrodia primaeva* is clearly separated from these taxa by its annual, soft, cheese-like basidiocarps, almost monomitic context with only a few binding hyphae and dimitic trama.

In fresh condition *Antrodia primaeva* can be identified by its white to unevenly pale brown, soft, juicy basidiocarps (Figs. 2 and 3) and by its occurrence exclusively on pine, but it is easily mistaken for some species of *Postia* (*Oligoporus*), mainly *Postia leucomallella* (Murr.) Jül. Its basidiospores are different, however, and the dimitic trama and almost monomitic context with some true binding hyphae make it a distinct species and identifiable in the microscope.

Antrodia infirma Renvall & Niemelä n.sp.

Carpophorum annuum, effusum; pori angulati (1–)3–4 per mm. Systema hypharum dimiticum, hyphae generativae fibulatae, abundantes et in contexto et in trama; hyphae skeletales rarissimae. Sporae (6–)6.3–8.5(–10.1) × (2–)2.2–3(–3.4) µm, ad apicem distalem subfusoidae.

Holotypus: Finland. Pohjois-Karjala, Lieksa, Patvinsuo National Park, Autiovaara, fallen trunk of *Pinus sylvestris*, 14.IX. 1989 R. Penttilä 1235 (H, isotypi in DAOM, O and O–L.R.).

Basidiocarps annual, resupinate, 2–10(–15) × 0.5–5(–10) cm wide, soft when fresh, somewhat brittle when dry. Margin white to bay, when dry paler than mature pores, sterile edge only ca. 0.5 mm wide and pubescent, pores usually extending to the very margin. Pore surface when young and fresh pure white, changing to distinctly cream, straw, yellowish or wood-coloured upon drying; pores angular, (1–)3–4 per mm, intermixed with scattered larger ones (Fig. 7), walls very thin and papery, ca. 0.02 mm thick

(dry); tube mouths under lens (× 50) even or faintly serrate. Section: Subiculum white and very thin, 0.2–1 mm thick, tubes up to 3 mm long, about the same colour as the subiculum.

Hyphal system dimitic (but appearing monomitic), all hyphae inamyloid, indextrinoid, acyanophilous and non-metachromatic. Subiculum: Dimitic (Fig. 6f) (but appearing monomitic), generative hyphae predominating in all parts, delicately thin-walled, occasionally branched and with frequent cross-walls and clamp connections, 1.9–4.8 µm wide (n = 113/9), often with oily contents (character seen especially well in KOH), a few of them gloeoplerous, sclerified generative hyphae (reminiscent of binding hyphae, Fig. 6c) often present inside insect cavities or pockets of rot in wood, moderately branched, thick-walled, repeatedly clamped, rare to fairly abundant; skeletals extremely rare, but locally just above tubes some hyphae usually present, somewhat winding, otherwise as in trama. Tubes: Trama dimitic (Fig. 6d) (but appearing monomitic), generative hyphae dominant in all parts, interwoven to subparallel, 1.8–3.9 µm wide (n = 106/9), otherwise as in context; skeletal hyphae rare to occasional, often irregularly distributed in clusters (Fig. 9b) and sometimes difficult to find but always easy to identify, found most easily in upper parts of tubes, but may reach down to dissepiment edges, fairly straight to winding, refractive, thick-walled but with a distinct lumen, 2.4–5 µm wide (n = 67/8) and often with oily contents. Subhymenium indistinct. Hymenial cells glued firmly together into a honeycomb structure (best seen in areas where hymenium has flattened) and difficult to separate in CB, in KOH easier to squash. Basidioles clavate, slender-based, 15–22 × 3.8–6.5 µm (n = 30/2) (Fig. 6b). Basidia clavate, with a basal clamp and with four sterigmata, 16–22 × 4–8 µm (n = 46/5). Cystidia absent but thin-walled cystidioles (Fig. 6b) usually present, with a short or finger-like apex, 19–29 × 3–5 µm (n = 14/6). Basidiospores very narrowly ellipsoid and when mature mostly with a fusiform distal end, slightly bent outwards (Fig. 6a), fairly thin-walled, smooth, inamyloid, indextrinoid and acyanophilous (6–)6.3–8.5(–10.1) × (2–)2.2–3(–3.4) µm, $\bar{L} = 7.33$, $\bar{W} = 2.65$, $Q = 2.45$ –3.12 (n = 305/10).

Etymology: *infirmum* (Lat., adj.), not firm, in contrast to most *Antrodia* species, whose abundant skeletal hyphae make them tough.

Distribution and ecology

Specimens examined

Finland. Satakunta: Ikaalinen, Seitsemännen Nat. Park, *Pinus sylvestris*, 1986 Penttilä 364 (H). Etelä-Häme: Asikkala, Kop-

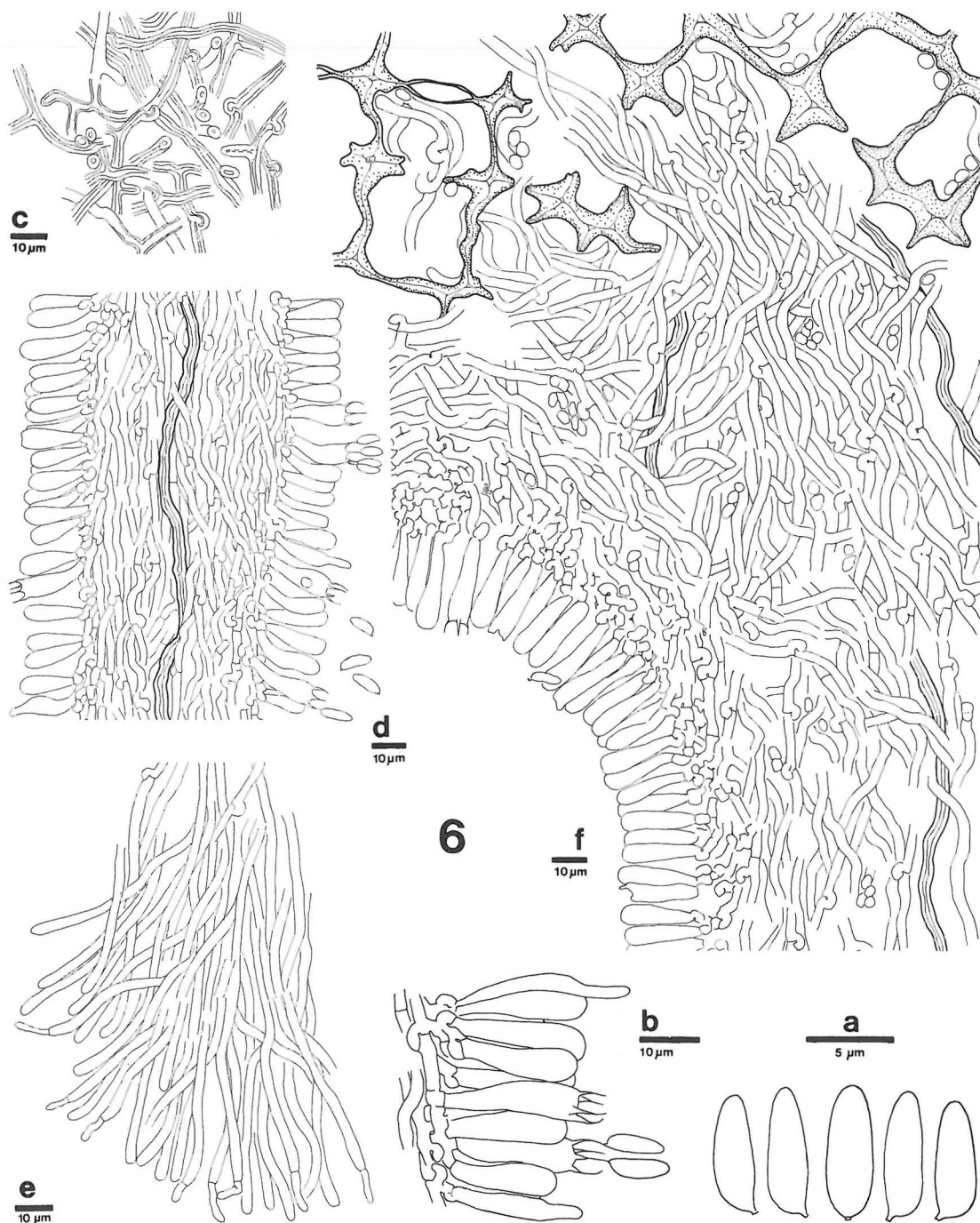


Fig. 6. Anatomical details of *Antrodia infirma* Renvall & Niemelä: a) basidiospores, b) basidia and basidioles, c) sclerified generative hyphae from an insect cavity inside wood, d) dissepiment edge, e) a section through subiculum and upper dissepiment. Drawn in Cotton Blue. Figures a, c, d, f from Renvall 1144 (H); b, e from the holotype (H).

suo, on a wall log of an old barn (*P. sylvestris*?), 1980 Haikonen 590 (H). Lammi, Evo, *P. sylvestris*, 1980 Niemelä 2262 (H). *Pohjois-Karjala*: Lieksa, Patvinsuo Nat. Park, *P. sylvestris*, 1989 Penttilä 1235 (holotype H, isotypes DAOM, O, O-L.R.), 1404, 1441 (H). Pielisjärvi, Koli, *Picea abies*, 1979 Niemelä 1663 & Kotiranta (T.N.). *Kainuu*: Vuolijoki, *Pinus sylvestris*, 1991 Airaksinen (H). *Perä-Pohjanmaa*: Tervola, Pisavaara Strict Nat. Res., *P. sylvestris*, 1979 Niemelä 1533 & Kotiranta (T.N.). *Koillismaa*: Salla, Värriö Strict Nat. Res., *P. sylvestris*, 1991 P. Renvall 2601 (P.R.). *Sompion Lappi*: Savukoski, Värriö Strict Nat. Res., *P. sylvestris*, 1988 P. Renvall 1144 (H, O-L.R.). Savukoski, Urho Kekkonen Nat. Park, Jaurujoki, *P. sylvestris*, 1988 T. Renvall 414 (H).

Little can be said about the total distribution of *Antrodia infirma*. According to our material, it is a rare boreal species with a scattered occurrence, being restricted to virgin or old forests. It has not been found in southern or western parts of Finland (Fig. 8). The northwesterly distribution may merely be a consequence of the rarity of virgin forests in the western part of the country, or it may reflect the climatic tolerance of the species. *A. infirma* has been found almost exclusively on naturally fallen trunks of conifers, mainly *Pinus sylvestris* and it is a saprotrophic fungus, which seems to cause a slowly proceeding brown rot. Most of the collections derive from decor-ticated, large and fairly strongly decayed trunks, which indicates a preference or need of stable conditions.

Due to this fairly exacting growth site ecology, we feel that *Antrodia infirma* should be included in the list of threatened fungi in Finland. The pattern of very isolated occurrences (Fig. 8) increases the vulnerability of the species.

Notes on *Antrodia infirma*

Antrodia infirma is close to *Antrodia oleracea*, *Fibroporia mappa* (Overh. & Lowe) Niemelä (*Postia mappa* (Overh. & Lowe) Larsen & Lombard), *Postia rancida* (Bres.) Larsen & Lombard (*Oligoporus rancidus* (Bres.) Gilb. & Ryv.) and *Postia placenta*. It differs from the two last-mentioned polypores in having true skeletal and longer, very narrowly ellipsoid basidiospores, whose fusiform distal end is especially characteristic. *P. rancida* and *P. placenta* are both monomitic and their basidiospores are slightly curved, tapering more or less clearly towards the apiculus (proximal end), but being rounded at their distal ends. Unlike *Antrodia oleracea*, *Postia rancida* and *P. placenta*, *Antrodia infirma* exudes a coagulating substance in KOH, which soon gives the mount characteristically messy appearance. A description of *P. rancida* can be found, for instance, in Gilbertson and Ryvarden (1987). The variability of *Postia placenta* has been discussed in detail by Domański

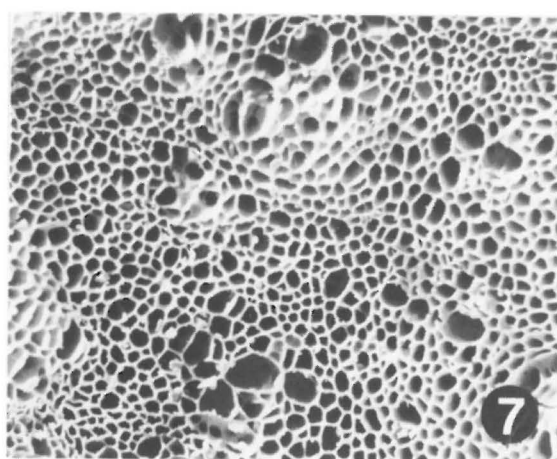


Fig. 7. Pore surface of *Antrodia infirma* Renvall & Niemelä, x 6. Herbarium specimen, holotype (H).

(1965, 1970a, 1972 as *Ceriporiopsis placenta*) and good descriptions are presented by Eriksson (1958), and Gilbertson and Ryvarden (1987, as *Oligoporus placentus*). *Fibroporia mappa* differs from the new species in having longer, rod-shaped, cylindrical basidiospores and a monomitic trama. *F. mappa* has been discussed and illustrated by Niemelä (1985b).

Antrodia oleracea shares many hyphal and basidiospore characters with *A. infirma* and it also causes a brown rot (Davidson et al. 1947, David & Torti 1984). So these two species seem to be most closely related to each other. The type of *A. oleracea* was obtained in culture (Davidson et al. 1947) and we are therefore inclined not to place too much reliance on the type. The basidiospores of *A. oleracea* are reported to be oblong or more or less fusoid and often slightly arcuate near the apiculus, 5–7.5(–8) x 2–3 µm in size (Lowe 1966, Gilbertson & Ryvarden 1986). *A. oleracea* is also reported to produce chlamydospores (Davidson et al. 1947), which we have not observed in *A. infirma*. Unlike in *A. infirma*, some inflated (up to 10 µm wide) generative hyphae are present in *A. oleracea*. Deviating opinions are presented in the literature concerning the macroscopical characters of *A. oleracea*: the basidiocarps are described as perennial by Gilbertson (1981) and Lowe (1966), while Ryvarden & Johansen (1980) and Gilbertson & Ryvarden (1986) consider them to be annual. The pores are reported to be 2–4 per mm (Lowe 1966) or up to 6–7 per mm (Kotlaba et al. 1984). The subiculum is cork-coloured in African material (Ryvarden & Johansen 1980), while elsewhere it is reported to be white (e.g. Kotlaba et al. 1984, Gilbertson & Ryvar-

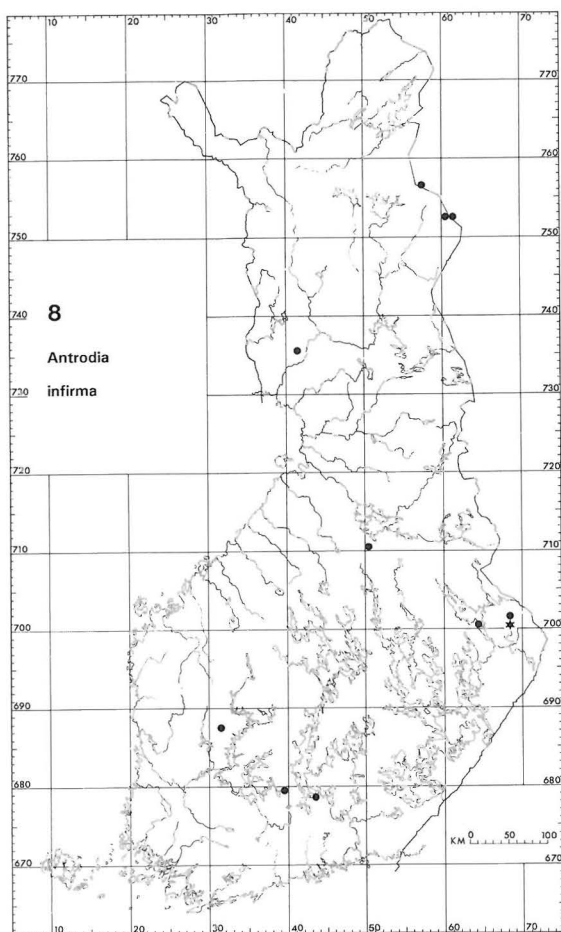


Fig. 8. The distribution of *Antrodia infirma* Renvall & Niemelä in Finland according to the material examined. * = The type locality.

den 1986). The basidiocarps of *A. infirma* are definitely annual and its subiculum is white.

The host relationships differ between the two species. Davidson et al. (1947) and Berry and Lombard (1978) have shown that in southern North America *Antrodia oleracea* is a heart-rot-causing fungus of living and dead oaks (*Quercus rubra* L. group). In our material *A. infirma* is restricted to conifers, mainly pine, and we therefore consider the host to be a good tool for separating these two polypores. *A. oleracea* has also been reported on pine, from Cuba (Kotlaba et al. 1984), but we have not seen the specimen.

Antrodia infirma has evidently a different climatic preference from *A. oleracea*: it is a species of the coniferous zone of Europe, often growing near the alpine and polar timberline, i.e. the Northern Boreal (upper Oroboreal) zone. *A. oleracea* has never been recorded from Europe, and it is distributed from nemoral (Temperate) to subtropical North America and in tropical Africa (Kotlaba et al. 1984).

To summarize, *A. oleracea* differs from *A. infirma* in its basidiospores, which are shorter and slightly arcuate close to the apiculus, in its shorter and almost pyriform basidioles which are easily separated, e.g. in CB, in its inflated generative hyphae, and in its brittle tubes, smaller pores and different hosts and distribution. In addition, *A. oleracea* is unchangeable in KOH (see Lowe 1966), while *A. infirma* has a characteristic oily and messy appearance in KOH.

Notes on the hyphal structures and the generic delimitation of the new species

The hyphal systems of these species are not easily classified as mono-, di- or trimitic according to the criteria presented by Corner (1953), Gilbertson and Ryvarden (1986) and many others. The vegetative hyphae of both the new species are unevenly distributed and their amount varies greatly in different parts of the basidiocarp. In *Antrodia primaeva* binding hyphae are present in some restricted areas inside otherwise monomitic context and if a small number of sections are made without true care, the real structure remains unobserved. In *A. infirma* skeletal hyphae are very rare and almost absent from the subiculum, and they often form isolated clusters in the trama (Figs. 6 and 9b). Horizontal sectioning is the surest way of checking their presence and distribution. While examining the species, we made several vertical sections without seeing a single skeletal hypha. Therefore the microscopical examination of these species has to be done systematically and with special care.

Because of the intricate hyphal structures of the new species, their generic placement poses some major problems. If strict attention is paid to the characters of the basidiospores, the hyphal structure and the type of rot, *Antrodia primaeva* should evidently be placed in *Fomitopsis*: it is a trimitic, brown-rot-causing polypore with inamyloid, indextrinoid, acyanophilous and smooth basidiospores. However, the annual, soft and cheese-like basidiocarps, almost monomitic context with only a few binding hyphae, and dimitic trama are characters which are alien to *Fomitopsis* as defined, for instance, by Ryvarden (1991). Recently Kotlaba and Pouzar (1990) sepa-

rated two new genera from that genus: *Pilatoporus* Kotl. & Pouz. and *Rhodofomes* Kotl. & Pouz. The main criteria for this division were found in the thickness of the basidiospore wall, the characters of the pileal surface, the colour of the context and the perenniality of the basidiocarps. Although we agree with Donk (1974) that *Fomitopsis*, as currently understood (Gilbertson & Ryvarden 1986, Bernicchia 1990, Ryvarden 1991), is a heterogeneous entity, we are not ready to adopt the new division. Accordingly we are reluctant to place *A. primaeva* in *Pilatoporus*, a genus of strongly trimitic and tough fibrous-corky polypores.

When selecting the genus for *Antrodia infirma*, our starting point was the type of rot: we consider the species to cause a brown rot, although the kind of decay is not easily seen in old tree trunks, inhabited by many fungi. The weakly dimitic structure guided us to *Fibroporia* as delimited by Parmasto (1968) and Niemelä (1985b). The type of rot fits that genus and the hyphal characters are basically the same. However, the core species of the genus, *F. vaillantii* (Fr.) Parm. and *F. gossypium* (Speg.) Parm., have shorter and more truncate basidiospores. Further, a drawback to the choice of *Fibroporia* is that it has not achieved wide acceptance among mycologists.

The genus *Amyloporiella* was described (illegitimately, see Ryvarden 1991) by David and Torti  (1984) to replace *Amyloporia* Bond. & Sing. (Bondartsev & Singer 1941, Singer 1944, Bondartsev 1953) in favour of a better type. However, the selection of a neotype for *Polyporus calceus* (Fr.) Schw. by Ryvarden (1991) settled the meaning of the generic name *Amyloporia*, and made its redescription as *Amyloporiella* unnecessary. David and Torti  (1984) merged together some resupinate, brown-rot-causing polypores with a dimitic or subtrimitic hyphal system, variable amyloid reaction in the trama and skeletal hyphae mostly soluble in 10% KOH (all included in *Antrodia* by Gilbertson & Ryvarden 1986). It is evident that this genus or subgenus is a natural one, the members even having further characters in common (spore shape, conical or fusiform cystidioles, basidia much shorter than in *Antrodia*, etc.). An accurate delimitation, however, should be worked out. In that connection David and Torti  also included *Antrodia oleracea* in *Amyloporiella*. At present, we feel that it fits *Antrodia* better, where it was placed by Ryvarden (Ryvarden & Johansen 1980).

For practical reasons the concept of the genus *Antrodia* has been greatly expanded in most new manuals (Ryvarden 1976, 1991, Gilbertson & Ryvarden 1986) from the original idea of Donk (1966). This has led to a taxonomically unwelcome situation, where a rela-

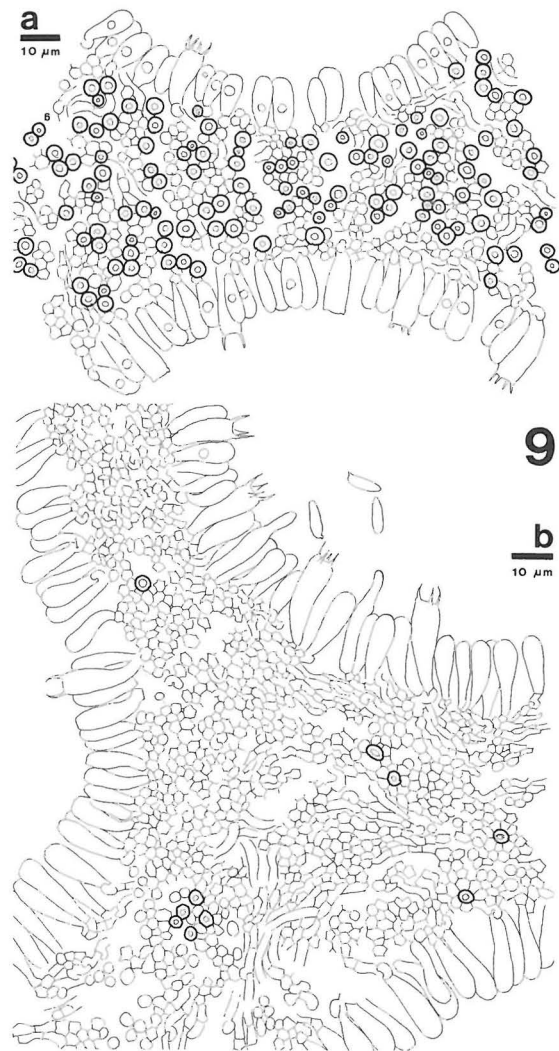


Fig. 9. Horizontal sections of dissepiments showing the distribution of skeletal hyphae in trama: a) *Antrodia primaeva* Renvall & Niemel  (Renvall 991, H), b) *Antrodia infirma* Renvall & Niemel  (Penttil  1235, holotype H). Drawn in Cotton Blue.

tively heterogeneous group of poroid fungi are linked for the sake of two key characters, dimiticity and the type of rot (for discussions see, e.g., Donk 1974, Niemel  & Ryvarden 1975, Niemel  1978, Ryvarden 1991). Technically, however, the solution is the most practical, while we await a comprehensive revision of brown-rot-causing poroid fungi having more or less dimitic hyphal systems with variable colour reactions

and smooth, inamyloid, indextrinoid and acyanophilous basidiospores. At present *Antrodia* includes some almost monomitic species (genus *Fibroporia* sensu Parmasto 1968 and Niemelä 1985b), slightly trimitic polypores, and species with a strong amyloid reaction in the trama.

We are bound to accept the practical generic delimitations of *Antrodia* and *Fomitopsis* and the most appropriate solution was to describe the two new Nordic species in the genus *Antrodia*. The value of the hyphal system as one of the basic characters in the taxonomy of polypores appears to require some reevaluation. A new, more delicate hyphal type classification may perhaps be needed especially as concerns the ramified generative and vegetative hyphae.

Excluded taxa

When trying to find older names for the Nordic taxa described in this paper we studied the following type specimens.

Bjerkandera roseomaculata Karst.

Hedwigia 30:247, 1891 (holotype H).

We agree with Lowe (1956) and Ryvarden (1978) that the type belongs to *Postia placenta*.

Physisporus albolilacinus Karst.

Hedwigia 31:293, 1892 (holotype H).

We also place this name in the synonymy of *Postia placenta* (see Lowe 1956).

Poria carbonicola Karst.

Finska Vet.-Soc. Öfv. Förh. 46(11):4, 1904 (holotype H, see Lowe 1956).

The type, collected near Lake Baikal, Russia, is sterile and was left undetermined by us. Not *Antrodia primaeva*, *A. infirma*, or *Dichomitus stenospora*.

Poria carnicolor Baxter

Pap. Michigan Acad. Sci. Arts Lett. 26:109, 1941 ('1940') (holotype MICH).

We consider the type to belong to *Postia placenta* (see Lowe 1966).

Poria cognata Overh.

Mycologia 35:248, 1943 (original collection BPI; invalid: lacking a Latin description).

According to Lowe (1966) and Ryvarden & Gilbertson (1984) this is a synonym of *Postia rancida* (*Oligoporus rancidus*). However, the specimen is dimitic with a few skeletal hyphae and in our opinion it belongs to *Antrodia oleracea*.

Poria gelatinosotubulosa Pilát

Bull. Soc. Mycol. France 51:383, 1936 (holotype PRM).

Kotlaba and Pouzar (1988) identified the type as a pale form of *Postia placenta* (*Ceriporiopsis placenta* (Fr.) Dom.), and it 'is obviously a synonym of *Tyromyces placenta*' according to Parmasto (1986). Although the specimen is in rather poor condition (partly due to the gelatinous tubes), we agree with them.

Poria microspora Overh.

in Nobles, Canadian J. Res. 21:224, 1943 (isotype PACMA).

The type belongs to *Postia placenta* (*Poria monticola* Murr.), as was also noted by Lowe (1966).

Poria monticola Murr.

Mycologia 12:90, 1920 (holotype NY).

The variability of *Postia placenta* was discussed by Domański (1965, 1970a), who concluded that *Poria monticola* belongs to *P. placenta*. Ryvarden (1985) did not find any spores of the type and his identification was *Antrodia* sp. Later, however, Gilbertson and Ryvarden (1986) considered *P. monticola* a synonym of *P. placenta* (*Oligoporus placentus*). On examination of the type material alone, we could not find any remarkable differences between *P. placenta* and *P. monticola* and we consider them to be a single species.

Poria oleracea Davidson & Lombard

Mycologia 39:317, 1947 (holotype BPI, see Ryvarden & Johansen 1980, David & Tortié 1984).

The differences between this and *A. infirma* are discussed in the section 'Notes on *Antrodia infirma*'.

Poria rancida Bres.

Fungi Tridentini 2:96, 1900 (holotype S, see Larsen & Lombard 1986, Ryvarden 1988).

We agree with Larsen and Lombard (1986) that the species belongs to *Postia*.

Poria stenospora Overh.

Proc. Pennsylvania Acad. Sci. 13:125, 1939 (original collection PACMA; invalid: lacking a Latin description).

In our opinion both Overholts (1939) and Lowe (1966) were right in treating this as a separate taxon. The species is undoubtedly a *Dichomit*, as stated by Ryvarden and Gilbertson (1984), who placed it in the synonymy of *D. squalens*. Critical characters of the genus are the presence of skeleto-binding hyphae which are distinctly cyanophilous, and the cylindrical shape of the basidiospores. In both the European and American materials of *D. squalens*, however, the basidiospores measure ca. 8–11 × 2.9–3.3 µm, while in *P. stenospora* the spores measure ca. (6.8–)7.5–8 (–9) × 2–2.1 µm. The difference in the diameter seems to be especially distinct. *D. squalens* has clavate basidia and basidioles, ca. 15–18 × 7–8 and 13–17 × 6.5–7 µm, respectively; *P. stenospora* has oblong-subglobose basidia ca. 12–13 × 6–6.5 µm and pyriform-globose basidioles measuring 10–13 × 5.5–6 µm, i.e. shorter and much more rounded. In *D. squalens* the pores are ca. 3–5 per mm and in *P. stenospora* 5–8 per mm. *P. stenospora* is resupinate (Lowe 1966); *D. squalens* tends to grow pilei, whenever possible. *Dichomit* *albidofuscus* (Dom.) Dom. differs from *P. stenospora*, e.g., in having shorter basidiospores (4–6.5 × 2–3 µm) (Domański 1966, 1972).

For the reasons given above, we accept the taxon as a good species of *Dichomit* and propose the following name:

Dichomit stenospora Renvall & Niemelä n.sp.

Dichomit squalens (Karst.) Reid similis, sed sporis angustioribus (ca. 7–9 × 2 µm), basidis et basidiolibus minoris, et poris minoris (6–8 per mm). Holotypus: U.S.A., Washington, Newman Lake, *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (as *taxifolia*), 2.VIII. 1936 C.R. Stilling 3660 (Herb. L.O. Overholts 21564; PACMA 1697). Sub. n. '*Poria stenospora* Overholts'.

Trametes alaskana Baxter

Pap. Michigan Acad. Sci. Arts Lett. 27:150, 1942 ('1941') (holotype MICH).

This species belongs to the complex of species which are variably identified as *Antrodia albida* (Fr.: Fr.) Donk, *A. heteromorpha* (Fr.: Fr.) Donk or *A. serpens* (Fr.: Fr.) Karst. A thorough revision would be very welcome.

Trametes squalens Karst.

Rabenhorst & Winter, Fungi Eur. Extraeur. No. 3528 (syntype H, see Lowe 1956).

The specimen has cyanophilous skeleto-binding hyphae. = *Dichomit squalens*; see its discussion.

Tyromyces ellisianus Murr.

North American Flora 9(1):34, 1907 (holotype NY, see Reid 1965, Ryvarden 1988).

A synonym of *Dichomit squalens*.

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